

## Quick Read

### In General

#### Learn about adoption

A free adoptive family workshop is April 30, 1-5 p.m., at Hotel Le Maisières near SHAPE. It's open to all U.S. citizens considering adopting while living in Belgium and the Netherlands. Info: 065 340760.

### Belgium

#### Talk scheduled

Author Christopher Novak speaks April 27, 7 p.m., at SHAPE American High School cafeteria about his book, "Conquering Adversity: Six Strategies to Move You and Your Team Through Tough Times." Info: DSN 423-5789.

#### Sweetheart banquet held

A marriage enrichment class and dinner are May 20, 6:30-9 p.m., at NSA Chapel Fellowship Hall. Info and sign-up: DSN 368-9783.

### Netherlands and Germany

#### Meet other families

Coffee hours for families of deployed Soldiers are May 11 and 25, 10 a.m.-noon, at Schinnen ACS, Yellow Ribbon Room. Info: DSN 360-7500.

## What's the new look all about?

With this issue the Meteor-Heraut has started a contractual relationship with AdvantiPro, a company that will publish this newspaper under the DOD's civilian enterprise system. Basically the arrangement is that the company will pay to have the newspaper printed and distributed in return for being permitted to sell advertising space. In addition to display ads, the company will also sell classifieds and advertising inserts. We hope you will enjoy this change and continue to read the Meteor-Heraut for helpful information about American military community life in the Benelux nations.

# Moving in



PHOTO: Rick Haverinen

**Spc. Davina Eubanks, who works at SHAPE Healthcare Facility, gets her room ready for the movers to arrive in the new barracks building on Chièvres Air Base. Enlisted U.S. military members began moving in April 11.**

#### By J.D. Hardesty

New barracks accommodating up to 128 enlisted single service members supporting SHAPE and NATO missions opened its doors April 7 on Chièvres Air Base seven months early and \$3 million under budget.

Nearly 90 service members from the Army, Air Force, and Navy will be the first residents moving into the new facility designed by Dendermonde, Belgium-based ABETEC and built by Lixon, headquartered in Charleroi. Construction of the one-plus-one barracks design, (60 modules) built with two individual living quarters sharing a common kitchenette and bathroom, and eight noncommissioned officer suites, was completed in 17 months at a cost of \$9.3 million with materials purchased on the local economy within 40 kilometers of Chièvres. Originally, the contract called for a two-year construction period costing an estimated \$12 million.

In addition to uniquely housing single enlisted service members in the rank of E-6 and below from the various U.S. forces supporting the SHAPE/Chièvres area, the facility has personal indoor storage spaces and two laundry facilities in the building with 110 parking spaces outside.

"We have completed a stunning project, providing high-quality quarters for single junior enlisted service mem-



PHOTO: J.D. Hardesty

**The 80th ASG Commander, Col. Dean Nowowiejski, left background, asked the 254th BSB's Command Sgt. Maj., John Gaines, to cut one of the ribbons opening the new barracks building.**

bers in the SHAPE/Chièvres community," said Lt. Col. Angela Maria Lungu, deputy commander for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Europe District, citing contractors had broken ground for

the construction project in November 2003 at a projected cost of \$12 million and a two-year timeline to complete.

"From the taxpayer's point of view, this is a great success story," said Lt. Col. George Shepard, director of Public Works for the 80th Area Support Group, the garrison unit that provides facilities, support and service to NATO and SHAPE headquarters in its Benelux footprint in Brussels, and in Schinnen and Brunssum, the Netherlands. According to Shepard, the unused federally-appropriated funds are returned to the military construction cache (MILCON) to fund future projects.

Funding for military construction projects has already been appropriated for additional barracks in SHAPE and Brunssum, the Netherlands, signaling a continued American taxpayer commitment to the U.S. military presence in the Benelux.

The original construction concept began in August 2002 with a visit by U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (Calif.) and was adjusted to fit joint service needs and the most up-to-date force protection standards while matching local architectural style.

**See BARRACKS, Page 5.**





**Col. Dean A. Nowowiejski**  
**80th ASG Commander**

For those of you who actually read these notes, Happy Spring! In our continuing effort to improve communication, I would just reemphasize that this column is a personal communication from me to you, and that I appreciate those of you who read it. Would you please share with those who don't that this is a personal effort on my part, I write every word, and that this is an effort by the Area Support Group Commander to communicate to you, personally. Thanks.

There are two subjects to cover with this edition of the **Meteor-Heraut**.

## Nowowiejski Notes

One is the **need for employees at the Army and Air Force Exchange Service**, and the other is the **Army Emergency Relief Campaign**. First, AAFES is hiring at Chievres. This hiring need thus affects two communities, Chievres and Brussels. I had a meeting with Marie-Louise Abellano, our AAFES main store manager at Chievres last week. We would like to reemphasize the need for quality employees at the exchange. There is a great need right now for those of you who read this paper, whether family members, students, or service members looking for approved part-time work, to apply for positions at AAFES. This is a case where your contribution as an employee has a direct relation to quality of life for our community. There is a big need right now for food service workers, stockers, and a variety of other positions. Hours can be coordinated to accommodate flexible schedules. Please apply. A full slate of AAFES employees means a quality level of service for all customers of AAFES. If you have a concern for a quality experience at the Ex-

change, then the best way for you to help is to help quality employees go to work there. The hiring window is open. This is particularly true at Chievres, and a consistent need across our ASG.

The second issue is our **ongoing Army Emergency Relief campaign**. AER is a private, nonprofit organization that was incorporated in 1942 by the Secretary of War and the Army Chief of Staff. This means that AER is not a funded Army program. AER does not receive any money from the government, either appropriated or non-appropriated funds. All of the monies received are from our voluntary contributions during the annual campaign fund drive, from the repayment of loans, from unsolicited contributions, and from investment income.

Each branch of service, like the Army, has an aid society. **Each aid society conducts an annual campaign fund drive, and they all coincide with one another. Therefore, our counterparts in the Air Force, Navy, and Marines are all being asked to contribute to their service's Aid Society.** The

Army AER Campaign Fund Drive kicked-off on 15 March and will run until 15 May. We have 27 AER Key Persons in the 80th ASG who will make contact with each and every soldier and civilian employee to ask if they would like to make a contribution. The AER Campaign Managers are Mr. Quentin D. Jackson and Captain Kendall Adams for the SHAPE/Chievres communities. In Brussels, the program will be managed by 1SG Clarke Williams. And in Schinnen, the POC is 1SG Jose Cruz. If you would like to contribute, and have yet to be contacted, please give your POC a call.

**A primary function of the 80th ASG is to provide support to our US NATO forces, regardless of their service affiliation.** Therefore, the 80th ASG AER Officer, Ms. Viviana Trappe, provides Emergency Relief services for Army, Air Force, and Navy personnel assigned to the SHAPE/Chievres and the NSA Brussels communities. Her counterpart, Mr. Ed Carter, is responsible for the AER program at the Schinnen community. Both of these individuals are located in their respective ACS Centers, so if you need assistance, please contact them there. Thanks for your attention, and your support.

## USAREUR commander explains rebasing

7 April 2005

Bell Sends #18-05

### Update on the Impacts of Global Rebasing on United States Army Forces in Europe

1. In August of last year, I wrote to you concerning what our Nation's plan to reorganize and reposition our forward-deployed military force would mean, in broad terms, for the Army in Europe. In that Bell Sends (#25-04), I promised to keep you posted. It's time now to refine the picture a bit, and give you a clearer understanding of the future.

2. **BLUF:** The United States Army in Europe will reduce from its current force of 62,000 Soldiers, spread over 13 main operating locations across Europe, to approximately 24,000 Soldiers concentrated among four Joint Main Operating Base (JMOB) locations. These concentration locations include the following:

- **Wiesbaden Area**—We expect this to be the future home of the combined USAREUR and Task Force 5 headquarters, our warfighting deployable command post capability, and some of our theater-enabling commands. We will relocate from our current Headquarters complex in Heidelberg's Campbell Barracks, while continuing to support the NATO Allied Land Component Headquarters Heidelberg on Campbell Barracks.

- **Grafenwöhr Area**—Here the Expeditionary Training Command will be joined by a Stryker Brigade, the modularized multifunction aviation brigade, and additional theater-enabling commands.

- **Kaiserslautern Area**—This will constitute our major service and sustainment hub where theater logistics and medical support will be concentrated.

- **Vicenza Area**—This will be the home of the modularized and expanded 173d Airborne Brigade Combat Team and a deployable command post of Task Force 5.

3. We expect our individual installations / casernes

to decrease from 236 to 88 across Europe. The remaining footprint will provide us with a modern, 21st Century stationing, training, power-projection, and sustainment capacity for fully transformed, knowledge-based, flattened, and joint-capable Army forces in Europe. Our 24,000 Soldier force will be stationed with families on modern, full-service bases. Achieving this footprint over the next 5 to 10 years will require some significant rebasing and restationing actions. Among them—

- We hope to begin moving the 1st Infantry Division back to CONUS as early as 2006, and the 1st Armored Division back to CONUS starting about 2 years later. These moves and the dates for them have not yet been approved, and if they are approved we will make early announcements. These returns will obviously be associated with the ability of CONUS installations to receive them, and requirements to support the Global War on Terrorism. Other Corps and USAREUR units will relocate to CONUS, merge, or inactivate to meet our needs for the future.

- We are already beginning to execute aggressive construction programs across our future JMOBs to ensure that high-quality, modern facilities are available for our Soldiers and our families who will be stationed in Europe.

- We are working with our Italian partners to procure sufficient space to station the full Airborne Brigade Combat Team. Over time, our Soldier population could increase by more than 1,000 in the Vicenza area.

- We are also working to establish a rotational force (without families) presence in Eastern Europe. Our vision calls for up to brigade-size rotations of vari-

ous types of forces (Heavy, Stryker, Airborne). We expect to have this rotational force fully operational in the 2008 timeframe. A small deployable command post similar to the one we will have in Vicenza will provide command and control of this force.

- We will continue to provide support to both USEUCOM and SHAPE headquarters.

4. Associated with these actions will be a significant number of unit mergers, relocations, redeployments, and inactivations, some of which have already been announced. If your unit is identified to be a part of

any of these, there are resources available to help you start with your planning. The USAREUR Homepage has a link to an online copy of the Commander's Checklist for Restructuring and Rebased. This document is the product of a thorough and coordinated effort by the USAREUR staff to cover the full range of activities relating to notifications, operations, training, logistics, public affairs, resource management, and many others. Use this tool, and you'll be ahead of the game.

5. As our plans become more concrete, I will continue to keep you posted. Thank you for the great work you do every day in support of your Nation, both in the Global War on Terrorism and in helping bring our vision of the future to reality. Your leadership, sacrifice, and commitment make it possible for USAREUR to continue to execute with excellence Any Mission, Anywhere!



**Gen. B. B. Bell**

**B. B. BELL**  
General, US Army  
Commanding

# Soldier death apparently drug-related

16 April 2005  
Bell Sends #19-05

## SAFETY ALERT Soldier Dies of Apparent Drug Abuse

1. USAREUR recently lost another Soldier due to apparent drug abuse. Although his death remains under investigation, he appears to have died from an overdose of self-injected drugs. He was found dead in his barracks room. What a tragic loss.

2. I am concerned about the problem of drug abuse and excessive alcohol consumption in the Army in Europe. So far this fiscal year, three of our Soldiers may have died from drug overdoses, and one was killed in an alcohol-related accident. Last year across USAREUR we had 713 drug-related incidents and 738 "DUIs." Based on the number of incidents that have occurred this year, the figures for 2005 may be even higher.

3. Drug abuse is a serious problem. The consequences are often deadly for individuals who choose to risk their lives by getting high. While all of us must be prepared to accomplish our missions and fight the Global War on Terrorism, we each have special obligations to prevent drug abuse:

- Leaders: I urge you to set an example for your Soldiers and to use the Under the Oak Tree process to get and remain involved in their lives. Demonstrate your commitment to their welfare by ensuring they under-

stand what constitutes safe behavior, and by ensuring that drug abusers get the professional help they need.

- First-Line Leaders: Get to know your Soldiers and—most importantly—take time to talk with them. The success of the Under the Oak Tree process is based on uninhibited, one-on-one discussions between you and your Soldiers. Use this process for these discussions and to make verbal contracts with your Soldiers. Remove any obstacles that prevent you from doing this.

- Soldiers: Once again I ask you to continue upholding the Warrior Ethos, both on and off duty. Each of you is a highly skilled professional. You are also peers, role models, mentors, and ambassadors of free-

dom and the American way of life. Our entire Nation is judged on your actions. Set the example by not abusing drugs.

4. Ensure that this safety alert is given widest possible distribution by forwarding it electronically and posting it on unit bulletin boards. No Loss of Life is our goal. I need every Soldier trained, ready, and fit to continue to execute with excellence Any Mission, Anywhere.



B. B. BELL  
General, US Army  
Commanding

## World War II bomber crew remembered

Airmen from 309th Airlift Squadron provide a color guard April 13 in Fouleng, Belgium to commemorate the crash in a rural field of the "Royal Flush" B-17 bomber exactly 61 years earlier to the day. Left to right are Airman 1st Class David Rogers, Tech. Sgt. Randy Kwiatkowski, Tech. Sgt. Anthony Fisher, and Staff Sgt. Tony Layton. A plaque in a farmhouse wall records the details of the crash. Six crewmen were killed and four survived when the plane exploded.



PHOTO: Rick Haverinen

## Alcohol Awareness Month opportunity to examine own behavior

By Donald Reichert

April is Alcohol Awareness Month. It's a campaign that attempts to raise the public's awareness regarding issues related to alcohol use and abuse. While the military has gone from a position of encouraging alcohol consumption at unit parties and other social gathering, in today's military, not drinking alcohol or drinking alcohol moderately is the norm. But what is a moderate drinker?

A Moderate Drinker:

- Considers an occasional drink to be a small, though enjoyable, part of life.
- Have hobbies, interests, and other ways to relax and enjoy

life that do not involve alcohol.

- Usually has friends who are moderate drinkers or nondrinkers.
- Generally has something to eat before, during, or soon after drinking.
- Usually does not drink for longer than an hour or two on any particular occasion.
- Usually does not drink faster than one drink per half-hour.
- Usually does not exceed the .055% BAC moderate drinking limit even when not driving.
- Feels comfortable with his or her use of alcohol and never drinks secretly and does not spend a lot of time thinking about drinking or planning to

drink.

Learning to drink moderately is important especially for young people. Though it remains the number-one drug problem among young people, alcohol is often overlooked in the nation's efforts to prevent use of tobacco and illicit drugs among our youth. It is even more concerning here in Europe where the legal drinking age is only 16. While it may be legal for a child to buy and consume alcohol at 16 off post, it does not mean that parents are obligated or required to let their children drink either at home or away from home. You monitor your child's behavior on other things

including when they can go out, TV and internet use, so should also monitor their consumption of alcohol. On post all morale, welfare and recreation facilities enforce an 18 year old purchase and consumption rule based on community values and common sense.

To promote action as well as awareness, one weekend each April is designated an alcohol-free weekend. This year that weekend in the Benelux is 22-24 April. During these three days we ask parents and young adults to abstain from drinking alcoholic beverages for a 72-hour period to demonstrate that alcohol isn't necessary to have

a good time.

If you can't stop drinking for a single weekend, then perhaps your alcohol use is more important than you think. These are some ideas to think about during alcohol awareness month. We here at the Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) are here to help, not only in April, but throughout the year with information, education and treatment options for any ID card holder. Remember we are here to help, ASAP!

*Reichert is Alcohol and Drug Control Officer for 80th Area Support Group. His telephone is DSN 423-4443.*

## Virus testing kits being destroyed in American military labs in Europe

News media have reported about a "killer virus" sent around the world, raising fears of a global flu outbreak.

The College of American Pathologists (CAP) requires American pathology laboratories around the world to conduct quality assurance testing using

test kits. Laboratories under the Army Europe Regional Medical Command (ERMC) are required to be CAP accredited and received CAP test kits.

The 3,747 test kits sent to laboratories inadvertently contained potentially hazardous specimens of the influenza

type A, subtype H2N2 virus. On April 8, CAP informed participating laboratories to immediately destroy the influenza samples in the kits.

According to Brig. Gen. Carla Hawley-Bowland, commander of ERMC, "The samples received by five

Army medical facilities in Germany, Belgium and Italy are being appropriately destroyed using the proper method in accordance with CDC guidelines. Beneficiaries who use Army health care facilities are not at risk of being exposed to the virus."



## NSA Brussels Calendar

**The Brussels Volunteer Ceremony** is April 29, 7:30-9:30 p.m., at the Three Star Lounge. Info: 02 717-9679.

**ACS Job Opportunities Workshops** - May 6, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at NSA Chapel Area. Five free career development workshops, each 45 minutes long. Info and sign up, DSN 368-9783.

**The Brussels Weekly newsletter** is now available in electronic version only. Contact ACS for more information.

**Dance and Movie Night for high school** is April 30, 7 p.m.-midnight; **Dance and Movie Night for middle school** is May 14, 6:30 p.m.-midnight. Both at NSA Three Star Lounge, sponsored by NSA CYS. Info, Bill Greenawald, NSA CYS Coordinator, 04 7998-0355.

**Contractor wanted**- NATO Support Activity (NSA) seeks a Central Intake/I&R Specialist. Info: Brussels ACS, 02 717-9783.

## Fool the guesser

On a bet, tavern patron Kevin Ecobecq tries to figure out how much money is in a cloth bag while waitress Sylviane Meunier watches. This was one of seven scenes presented in "Les Medianoche" April 15-16 in downtown Chièvres as the clock was turned back to 1505.



PHOTO: Rick Haverinen

## March with Mom

The 80th Area Support Group and the volksmarch club "Le Roitelet" hold the "Aviators' March" May 8, a date that coincides with the 60th anniversary of V-E Day and Mother's Day. The departure of this IVV-sanctioned walk of 20, 15, 10 or 5 kilometers is at the Community Activity Center on Chièvres Air Base, 7 a.m.-3 p.m. All routes go along historical sites of Chièvres and the villages of Bauffe and Ladeuze. Other activities are planned in partnership with the local cities. The fee is 75 euro cents. Refreshments and food are available and trophies will be awarded. Pre-registration is mandatory for those without a valid installation access pass or U.S. ID card, and allows access to Chièvres Air Base. To pre-register call the 80th ASG Public Affairs Office, DSN 361-5419 or commercial (32) 68 27 5419, during duty hours. An on-line registration form in English and French is available at [www.80asg.army.mil](http://www.80asg.army.mil). Fill in the blanks and click on the "submit" button.

## SHAPE / Chièvres Local Calendar

**Prime Time Lounge** - Serves breakfast Mon-Fri, 7:30-9:30 a.m., \$5 or euro 5. This service is on a trial basis for one month. Open for lunch, Mon-Fri, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.; Lounge is open Wed-Fri at 5 p.m., Closed Sat-Tue (except second Sat. of the month for Country Night, 8:30 p.m.; *Cinco de Mayo Party*, May 5, starting 8:30 p.m.; *Country Night* May 9, 8:30 p.m.; *Karaoke every Friday*, 8:30 p.m.; *Family Readiness Group meeting* every second

Friday, 7-8:30 p.m.

**The Annual Volunteer Awards ceremony** is April 29, noon-2 p.m., at the IC Club on SHAPE. Open to everyone. Info: DSN 423-4270.

**SHAPE Entertainment Centre** - *Advanced Acting Class* by Dan Lamorte, April 25-26, 6-9 p.m.; *Master Scene Study workshop*, Class full, but observation slots are free. *Missoula Children's Theatre* comes to SHAPE Entertainment May 23-28. Auditions are

May 23, 4-6:30 p.m., at the Entertainment Centre. Performances are May 28, times TBA. Children in grades K-12 will be cast and all nationalities are welcome. Info: DSN 423-4257/3312.

**Youth 14-22 looking for a summer job** are invited to a job fair May 4, 3:20-5 p.m., at the Youth Center on SHAPE. Get info about the U.S. Summer Hire Program. Info: Janet.Fillman@us.army.mil, DSN 423-5789.

**Chièvres Commissary** closes early April 29 at 5 p.m.





PHOTO: Rick Haverinen

The new enlisted member barracks on Chièvres Air Base was completed seven months early and \$3 million under budget. The building includes 60 modules built with two individual living quarters sharing a common kitchenette and bathroom, plus eight noncommissioned officer suites.

## BARRACKS from Page 1

"This project is just another example of the continued partnership with our neighboring communities," said Col. Dean Nowowiejski, commander of the 80th ASG. "The building retained local architectural integrity with the assistance of Mayor Claude Fortez of Bruges, and the Belgium Ministry of Defense's Infrastructure Division. "As the contractor mentioned to me upon completion of the project, 'you can lean your shoulder against this building,' which means it was built sturdy and well."

Nowowiejski explained the building is "a showcase of what we have to offer for all of our single service members," as Headquarters, U.S. Army NATO, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, SHAPE, the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Air Force officials celebrated the collaborative partnership that will provide quality living conditions for members of all services.

Air Force Maj. Gen. Joseph P. Stein, Deputy

Chief of Staff, Operations for SHAPE, expressed his appreciation to everyone for "building the very best single service member housing for the community and all Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines."

"We have made huge progress toward improving single service members' quality of life," said Marine Sgt. Maj. Alford L. McMichael, first senior non-commissioned officer for Allied Command Operations at SHAPE. "This facility shows the great progress we've made and is a direct indication leadership is concerned about quality of life issues to make sure single service members feel a part of our military family."

"Service members have terrible living conditions while fighting the Global War on Terrorism," McMichael said. "They deserve a nice place to live while in garrison and now they have a nice place to come home to."

The new home for the single service mem-

bers supporting NATO/SHAPE headquarters features both 110 and 220-volt electrical outlets as well as American and European telephone jacks.

"Sharing space with only one other person shows the Army has changed its view of single soldiers," said Spec. Duane Cripps, a 27 year-old new resident of the facility from Headquarters Detachment, 128th Signal Co., 39th Signal Bn. "The living space is large and less confining. I never thought I would see something like this."

Cripps said he would miss living in a more urban environment, "but this area gives me a larger perimeter to run and ride my bicycle without worrying about traffic," he said.

Most of the first residents to make the move from their current barracks said they would miss being so close to the recreational facilities on SHAPE, but looked forward to getting settled into their new location.



PHOTO: J.D. Hardesty

One of the rooms in the \$9.3 million Chièvres Air Base barracks for single service members' combines state-of-the-art force protection with a one-plus-one design to give single soldiers a safe place to live and improve overall quality of life.

# Employee contract sets far-reaching standard



PHOTOS: Rick Haverinen

Members of the Socialist Union sign the labor contract serviced by Benelux CPAC April 1. Left to right are Roland Masure, Directorate of Public Works; Martine Gevaert, 39th Signal Bn.; Dominique Dupont, Directorate of Logistics; and Corinne Van Simaëys, 39th Signal Bn.

## By Rick Haverinen

A new employment contract steers clear standards of labor relations in American military communities.

"It covers everything that is applicable to host nation employees, not only for the 80th Area Support Group, but for every employee serviced by the Benelux CPAC and working for the U.S.

forces in Belgium," said Jackie Peremans, an 80th ASG host nation employment specialist.

The last pact between the Benelux Civilian Personnel Advisory Center and the Belgian unions was in 1997, and was getting a bit creaky.

"Between '97 and now, things have changed," Peremans said. "Laws have changed and so we were updating the labor regulation by sending emails. People didn't have a good complete document."

About two years ago members of the National Socialist

Union, the National Liberal Union, and the 80th ASG began reworking the contract with the crew at Benelux CPAC.

"The agreement includes work schedule entitlements, allowances, pay, so it should be a tool for both supervisors and employees as to what they're entitled to, what they should be doing, in case they're sick and so forth. The

contract also includes agreements between management and the unions to cover things like on-call or English bonus," Peremans said. "Those are the things that do not exist in Belgian law and we had to create something in common."

The process of creating the new agreement didn't include many offers and counter-offers.

"I can't complain," said Martine Gevaert, an employee with 39th Signal Bn. "Management was really willing to accommodate everybody's needs."

"We had some suggestions to consider and sometimes we made some changes about the regulations," said Frederic Decabooter, a

high-voltage electrician at the 80th's Directorate of Public Works. "The early language had a few mistakes, but they were very small."

The union representatives met April 1 with Steve Young, 80th ASG deputy garrison commander, to formally sign the new contract written in English, French and Dutch. The docu-

ment can now be published to the union membership and supervisors and it's expected to be around for some time.

"I hope it's going to be forever because with the Internet system, we'll be able to update it every time we come up to a new agreement or every time there's a new Belgian requirement," Peremans said. "So we won't have to sit down and spend years to come up with a good document that changes constantly, so that would be ideal."



Steve Young, 80th Area Support Group deputy garrison commander, signs one of several copies of the labor contract while project officer Jackie Peremans watches.



# 254th BSB Tri-border News

## Child Abuse ~ 'One is one too many'



**Alexis, left, and Jordan, right, listen intently as Venetia Waters reads about 'good touch, bad touch.'**

**By Sylvia Bowron**

On April 1, President Bush proclaimed April National Child Abuse Prevention Month. In support of the proclamation, the 254th Base Support Bn., Army Community Services, Family Advocacy Program (FAP), is holding a series of special events in the tri-border area to enhance the community's awareness of child abuse issues.

News reports frequently have stories of the mistreatment of children. It is important to recognize the actual risks and to be familiar with the signs of abuse. Of the more than 2.5 million cases of child abuse and neglect reported each year, 35 percent involve physical abuse, 15 percent involve sexual abuse and 50 percent involve neglect according to the American Academy of Pediatrics.

"Army-wide, the incidence of child abuse continues to decline," said Venetia Waters, Family Advocacy Program coordinator. "I believe the reason for this is the emphasis placed on educating the community on the cause and signs of child abuse, and also the assistance we provide locally," she said.

The FAP team consists of two members, Nancy Spangler, Victim Advocate Coordinator and Michelle Tucker, New Parent Education & Support Program Coordinator.

"To celebrate Child Abuse Prevention Month we are offering education and prevention classes to children, parents and professionals, in addition

to our normal Life Strategies Workshops," said Waters. "The first two weekends this month, we spent at the PX handing out information to children and parents," added Waters.

"We have coloring books for children on 'Protecting my Body' explaining 'good touch, bad touch'," said Spangler. "For the parents, we have a small packet of information on the warning signs of physical and emotional abuse, how to teach children self-protection skills and what to do if you suspect a child is being abused," she added.

According to Waters, this month offers the family advocacy team a venue to provide additional awareness of the local staff and services they provide. Handing out pamphlets, coloring books and a list of other tools available to the community gives them that face-to-face opportunity. "We have a good prevention program," said Waters. "That is what the Family Advocacy Program is for, to avoid having family problems and helping to resolve those issues," she added.

The FAP team is joined this year by the Geilenkirchen Family Support Center in assisting with other events to educate the community on building a safe environment for our children.

"On April 7, we had a birthday party for all of our play morning children," said Michelle Tucker. "It was a special event with a bouncy castle brought in for that morning. The kids really enjoyed it" said Tucker.

Other events held were a free family movie day at the Joint Force Command Alliance Theater, Family Fun Day and Ident-a-Kid. "The Ident-a-Kid is a booklet, almost like a passport, for parents to keep," said Spangler.

"Sgt. Edith Sedli, D.A.R.E Program Officer, will fingerprint the children on the last page of the booklet before handing it to the parents. The rest of the booklets pages are for parents to complete," Spangler added.

"There are specific areas for the child's most recent photograph and emergency medical information, a page for personal information," said Sgt. Sedli. "There's an area to place a few strands of the child's hair with roots and follicles intact for DNA. The other two pages are for physical information and a page for the child's dentist to complete. This provides parents with information should the need arise," concluded Sedli. Sgt. Sedli will also provide Ident-a-Kid kits from 2-5 p.m. at the AFNORTH Craft Fair Sunday, April 24, at Joint Force Command Brunssum.

For the remainder of the month, the FAP team will be going to the schools at AFNORTH and Geilenkirchen to teach children 'good touch, bad touch' and how to tell if someone makes them feel bad. "The age group is so young that our focus will be on good feelings verses bad feelings," said Waters.

"We will also provide the same information to children at the Child De-

velopment Center and Youth Services," said Spangler. "Additionally, we will provide military members a training class on the FAP program and the services we provide," she added.

The Army Family Advocacy Program offers many services to the tri-border community. Workshops on Parenting, Stress Management, Anger Management, child birth and education information, are just a few.

"We provide a variety of services to soldiers and families to enhance their relationship skills and improve their quality of life," said Waters. "Child Abuse Prevention Month, in April, and Domestic Abuse Month, in October are the two major months that we concentrate on," said Waters. "Family Advocacy is dedicated to spousal and child abuse prevention, education, reporting, investigation, intervention and treatment," she said.

In the President's proclamation he 'encouraged federal, state and local government officials to improve the lives of our young people by doing all they can to keep children safe from harm. He also encouraged all Americans to protect our children from abuse and neglect to help ensure that every child can grow up in a loving and secure environment'. The Schinnen FAP team is working daily to do just that - their philosophy is 'One child abused is one child too many.'



Photos by Sylvia Bowron

**Nancy Spangler, left, and Venetia Waters, right, discuss the book they are using for their presentation at the AFNORTH International School assembly for K2 classes.**



# 254th BSB Tri-border News

## Construction continues at 254th BSB



Photos by Sylvia Bowron

**Piotr Rozer, prepares the machine that will level the commissary's new silicone sand and resin flooring.**

**By Sylvia Bowron**

Construction improvements continue at the 254th Base Support Bn. On April 4-5, the roads on post were repaved providing a much improved surface for commuters.

According to John Devens, Deputy Director, Network Service Center, Schinnen, the roads were dug up to install new telephone cables on base and fiber optic lines which will provide the community faster connectivity and more secure data communication.

Renovation of the Schinnen commissary is a project that has been going on since Nov. 2003. The project,

which has just started phase six of seven, continues to be a challenge for customers, store employees and construction workers as the store remains open during the renovation.

"At the end of each phase, we close down on Sunday evening at 6 o'clock move shelves, and stock for the start of the next phase before the store opens the following Tuesday," said Ernie Stewart, Schinnen Commissary Store Director. "I have some people who put in 18-19 hours to ensure we are ready to operate Tuesday when we open," he continued. "It's a lot of work, and the 254th BSB community and the tri-

border area have been very patient and understanding. We haven't had many customer complaints," said Stewart.

According to Stewart, everything will be in place at the end of phase seven. "The grand opening is scheduled for the July 23, and two days before the store will be 'packed out'," said Stewart. "The pack-out will ensure the shelves are stocked from back to front," he said.

"Perhaps our regional director and zone manager will be here, along with the commander and invited guests," said Stewart. "We will have give-aways, activities, and a lot of great prizes. There will also be a cookout with free hot dogs and hamburgers all day long, sponsored by store vendors," said Stewart.

Large construction projects such as

the commissary renovation always incur unforeseen problems where assistance from others is needed. "I am especially grateful to Nico Vogelpoel, his staff and Maj. Andamo Ford," said Stewart. "If they hadn't been spearheading this renovation, I really don't know what I would have done. I just can't say enough on how great they are," he concluded.

There are other construction projects scheduled for the 254th BSB. Projects such as installing a floor above the connection between the fitness center and the new basketball court adding 160 meters of floor space, and improvements at the Army and Air Force Exchange (AAFES) at Schinnen. Information updates on these projects are addressed at quarterly town hall meetings and in this venue.



**Workers repair roads with a new layer of asphalt where trenches were dug to lay new telephone and fiber optic cables**

## Symposium emphasizes communication

Lt. Col. Richard S. Richardson hosted the 254th Base Support Battalion Commander's quarterly symposium April 7 at Schinnen Sports Center. The symposium is the commander's venue to update battalion personnel on relevant issues and project status as well as provide general command information.

Richardson presented awards to the first, second and third place winners of the community-wide logo contest, and Certificates of Appreciation were given to all participants for their contributions. Following the logo contest awards, Certificates of Appreciation and various other awards were presented to several members of the 254th BSB.

Richardson began the symposium with a brief synopsis of events that occurred since the last symposium held in January. He reiterated the importance of continued employee training and sited the accomplishment of Hazardous Waste Compliance Training and

Emergency/Anti-terrorism Leader.

The commander recounted significant events that occurred during the last three months including the quarterly Town Hall meeting held in February, and the Army Family Action Plan Conference held in March. Several issues from the AFAP Conference were forwarded to the 80th Area Support Group to be evaluated at their conference. He explained how many issues resolved at the local level will be publicized in future issues of the Meteor-Heraut.

Richardson encouraged employees to continue to submit ideas for the Productivity Improvement Reviews and complimented the support given to the 598<sup>th</sup> Transportation Group and Joint Force Command Headquarters Brunssum personnel during their deployment. "I am confident in our abilities and service to the community we serve," said Richardson.

Continuing with an overview of accomplishments,

Richardson said the steps toward the BSB's transition to a Standard Garrison Office (SGO) are on track and talked about what lay ahead.

Throughout the symposium, Richardson stressed the importance of communication for a successful mission. He stated that the transition to an SGO will be predictable and cause no loss of service to our customers. The commander mentioned the various methods of communication that will be used to disseminate information to BSB personnel. These include emails, Tri-Border News Notes in both English and Dutch, the Community Events Calendar, Meteor-Heraut, Dutch language newsletter, the BSB Strategic Plan, the Benelux Link, CFN/AFN radio, town hall meetings, employee symposiums and the BSB web page.

Richardson thanked everyone for their continued support and contributions, and a brief question and answer session followed.

# 254th BSB Tri-border News

## 254th BSB Local Calendar

### Child Identification Day

A Child Identification Day, hosted by Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.), will be held at the Arts and Crafts Center at JFC Brunssum, Sunday, April 24, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is open to all NATO ID card holders.

Each child will receive a free child identification kit that includes areas for recent medical information, dental information, DNA hair sample, the child's personal information and a recent photo for visual identification purposes. A military police officer will fingerprint each child in the appropriate area of the kit.

The D.A.R.E. identification kit allows parents to collect specific information by easily recording the physical characteristics, DNA and fingerprints of their children on identification cards that are then kept at home by the parent or guardian. If ever needed, the I. D. kit will give authorities vital information to assist their efforts to locate missing/abducted children.

### Army Emergency Relief Campaign

The Army Emergency Relief (AER) Campaign is currently underway and runs until May 15. AER is a private nonprofit organization and is the Army's own emergency financial assis-

tance organization dedicated to "Helping the Army Take Care of Its Own".

AER provides emergency financial assistance to soldiers - active and retired - and their dependents when there is a valid need. Army Emergency Relief obtains a large share of the funds necessary to support its mission through donations from both the general public and from the Army Family. All contributions are fully tax deductible.

For more information call 360-7226 or log onto <http://www.aerhq.org/index.asp>.

### Spouse Club sponsors drive

The American Spouses Club is sponsoring a drive to collect school supplies for children in Iraq and Afghanistan. Items needed are as follows: New or slightly used backpacks, 12-inch ruler with metric markings, blunt end scissors, pencils, large erasers, colored pencils, notebook paper, composition books, folders with pockets and pencil bags. Donations can be taken to the Schinnen Thrift Shop or to the Family Support Center at Geilenkirchen.

For more information call 0245210-6705.

### Thomas weekend 2005

"Thomas the Tank Engine" is coming to Simpelveld, Limburg May 21 - 22.

For more information check the website [www.thomasandfriends.com](http://www.thomasandfriends.com).

### Youth Sports

Summer basketball season for children 8-18 runs from June 27 to Aug. 14. Practice will be Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5-7 p.m. at the JFC Gym, with games held Saturdays from noon - 2 p.m. Call DSN 364-6050 for more information and to register.

### JFC Library offers Summer Program

Sign-ups for the JFC Library Summer Reading Program begin in June. The program is for ages three and older and will run from June 21 through Aug. 21. Participants who complete the program will receive a reading certificate. This year's theme is Dragons, Dreams and Daring Deeds. For more information call DSN 364-2669 or 31 (0)45 526-2469.

### MWR Trips and Tours

**Phantasialand** - Trip to Bruhl, Germany, Saturday, May 22. Bus leaves from Schinnen.

**Brugges Belgium** - Famous for lace. Saturday, June 4.

**Euro Disney, Paris** - Express bus trip on Father's Day, \$109 for adults, Sunday, June 19.

**Amsterdam** - Day trip to exciting Amsterdam, Saturday, July 9.

**Paris, France** - Express trip to Paris, Saturday, July 23. Includes a walking tour. \$49 per person.

### Fitness Center offers new classes

Spinning and Crazy Circuits classes have been added to the Fitness Centers regime. Spinning classes are held Fridays from noon to 1 p.m. and Crazy Circuits are held Mondays from noon to 1 p.m. For more information call DSN 360-7560 or 31 (0)46 443-7560.

### Theatre presents "Plaza Suite"

The Alliance Players will perform Neil Simon's "Plaza Suite" April 28-30 and May 1, at the JFC Alliance Theatre. Show times are: April 28, Sneak Preview Charity Night at 6:30 p.m. (all proceeds will go to the International Red Cross); April 29, 8:00 p.m.; April 30, 5:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. and May 1 at 4 p.m. Tickets are 6 Euro and will go on sale April 1, 2005 at JFC Brunssum- The HIVE - contact Jo McKerrel at 31(0) 45 526 - 891 and at Geilenkirchen JVD Elementary School - contact Sandy Basseet at 49 2452 15-6006.

## Leisure Activities ~ by Rita Hoefnagels

**April 22-24: Pasar Malam Hengelo**, Asian market at ExpoCenter in Hengelo (NL). Entry: Euro 6.50. Information: 31 (0)74-2559559.

**April 23-24: Elf Fantasy Fair**, a 'fantasy weekend' with lots of magic, rattling of swords, witches, Tolkien and Harry Potter at Castle de Haar, Kasteellaan 1 in Haarzuilens (NL). Various international celebrities from the 'world of fantasy', including a number of writers, will be present at the fair as well. Entry: Euro 17.50; children 11 and younger no entrance fee.

**First Blossom Fair** at Hof van Eursinge, Vledders 6 in Westerbork (NL). About 60 participants present their articles for the garden, like pots, baskets, China, furniture, antiques, flowers and lots more. Open: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Entry: Euro 5; children 12 and younger no entrance fee. Information: 31 (0)593-552693.

**April 23-30: Tulip Festival** in the center of Emmeloord (NL). Festival with various activities, including cycling packages, Royal Night, the election of the Tulip Queen and lots more. No entrance fee. Information: 31 (0)527-621111.

**Thru April 24: Groen & Doen**, large garden fair at RAI in Amsterdam (NL). Open: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Information: 31 (0)20-5491212.

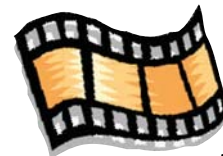
**Art & Antique Fair** at Brabant Hallen in Den Bosch (NL). Entry: Euro 12. Information: 31 (0)73-6293911.

**Floralien Gent**. A large garden fair held every 5 years at Flanders Expo in Gent (Belgium). Information: 32 (0)9-2419211.

**April 30: Koninginnedag (Queen's Day)** national holiday. To celebrate the Queen's birthday, there will be markets, theater shows, bands and games throughout the Netherlands. Each year the Queen selects two towns which she visits.

**May 1-5: Home and Garden Fair** at Castle Beeckestijn near Velsen Zuid (NL). Entry: Euro 15. Information: 31 (0)255-512091.

**May 1-8: Spring Fair** with the newest trends on living, interior and fashion at MECC in Maastricht (NL). Entry: Euro 6.50. Information: 31 (0)43-3838383.



## JFC Alliance Theater

**April 22, 7:30 p.m. The Aviator**. Starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Cate Blanchett. Rated PG-13. A snapshot in the life of the legendary Howard Hughes as he begins to direct the 1930 film "Hell's Angels" starring Jean Harlow. Hughes' obsession with perfection in the aerial sequences spurs him to extreme lengths, such as waiting interminably for perfect conditions, right down to cloud formations. "The Aviator" ends in 1946, when Hughes was still a young man and romancing actresses like Ava Gardner and Katharine Hepburn.

**April 23, 1 p.m. Pooh's Heffalump Movie**. Animated. Rated G. The residents of the Hundred Acre Wood try to catch the terrifying Heffalumps, who have come into the forest. But Roo, too young to help in the hunt, comes across a young Heffalump named Lumpy, who proves that Heffalumps aren't all what people say. Thanks to Roo and Lumpy's friendship, everyone learns a valuable lesson about working together.

**4 p.m. Son of the Mask**. Starring Jamie Kennedy, Alan Cumming. Rated PG. This newest film in the "Mask" series focuses on aspiring cartoonist Tim Avery who's feeling reluctant to become a father when he finds that he has to take care of a baby with amazing abilities....somehow, the baby has the powers of the Mask of Loki, a mythological object that transforms its user into a manic shape shifter alter-ego. As bad as a baby with godlike powers might seem, the 'really' bad news is that Loki wants his mask back.

**7:30 p.m. Hitch**. Starring Will Smith, Eva Mendes. Rated PG-13. Alex "Hitch" Hitchens is a "date doctor" who claims to be able to find customers their perfect romantic match in three dates or less. Sara, meanwhile, is a gossip reporter for a daily tabloid who decides to write an expose on Hitch's condescending methods. However, Sara finds her professional life and personal life on a collision course as she finds herself falling for Alex while investigating his dubious claim.



## Summer learning offered


DoDDS-Europe offers a four-week, half-day summer school program July 5-29 for students in kindergarten-eighth grade. Additionally, online courses will be made avail-

able over the summer for high school students in grades nine-12. These programs are a part of DoDDS-E's support for students and their families, many of which have deployed service members.

The primary grade program is offered to children in space-required enrollment status. It features an

academic-enrichment curriculum that emphasizes math and language arts. The summer program is designed to support and reinforce student learning through fun and engaging activities.

Registration forms and additional information are available from all DoDDS-E school offices.



### Meteor-Heraut Deadline and Publication Dates

Deadline	Print Date	Deadline	Print Date	Deadline	Print Date	Deadline	Print Date
April 25	May 6	May 23	June 3	June 20	July 1	July 25	Aug. 5
May 9	May 20	June 6	June 17	July 4	July 15	Aug. 8	Aug. 19

## About the Meteor-Heraut

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- We reserve the right to edit all material for style, to fit available space, to resolve libel, safety or force protection issues and to correct grammar.
- Articles in plain text and separate photographic files may be submitted but publication depends upon the judgment of the editor. All submissions should be in electronic form as plain text. We cannot process information in documents such as PowerPoint, Excel or Acrobat.
- Event announcements must use civilian dates and times. Spell out acronyms and include a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. We cannot reproduce prepared flyers in the Meteor-Heraut.

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**Deadline**

Copy and photographs are due by noon 11 calendar days before publication date.

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